

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Computer implemented method for ~~computing demand forecast information for a allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, the demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the method comprising the steps of:~~
 ~~providing a database for storing time series of observations;~~
 ~~providing at least two computer servers for independently computing demand forecast information for one or more branches of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;~~
 ~~determining a computational demand and an expected computing time for each branch of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;~~
 ~~for each branch of the plurality of branches, allocating each branch of the plurality of branches the branch to a task of a plurality of tasks based on the computational demand expected computing time for the branch, such that a total computational demand expected computing time for each task is substantially equal, wherein the total computational demand expected computing time for a task of the plurality of tasks is determined by adding the computational demand expected computing time for each branch that is allocated to the task; and~~
 ~~for each task, distributing the task to a computer server of the at least two computer servers; servers and executing the task on the computer server.~~
 ~~computing demand forecast information using one of said at least two computer servers, the demand forecast information computed from a first set of observations of said observations, the first set of observations being associated with a first task of the plurality of tasks, the first task being distributed to the one of said at least two computer servers, wherein the~~

first task includes at least a first branch of said plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;
and

simultaneously with said one computer server computing demand forecast information from said first set of observations computing demand forecast information using said other of said at least two computer servers, the demand forecast information computed from a second set of observations of said observations, the second set of observations being associated with a second task of the plurality of tasks, the second task being distributed to said other of said at least two computer servers, wherein the second task includes at least a second branch of said plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein each task of the plurality of tasks includes one or more allocated branches for execution on a single computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 and further comprising the step of determining the number of tasks as the product of the number of computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value indicating an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer servers will process.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) Computer implemented system for ~~computing demand forecast information for a~~ allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, the demand forecast application ~~capable of being graphically represented by a~~ demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one bottom node with a time series of observations associated therewith, the system comprising:

(a) a database server for storing time series of observations; and

(b) a forecast engine including
~~two or more at least two computer servers each computer server having a~~
computer capacity to compute demand forecast information for one or more branches of the
plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree and connectable to said database server so as to
retrieve selected ones of said observations, and

a computer manager that:
determines ~~a computational demand~~ an expected computing time for each branch
of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;

~~for each branch of the plurality of branches, allocates each branch of the plurality~~
~~of branches the branch to a task of a plurality of tasks based on the computational demand~~
expected computing time for the branch, such that a total ~~computational demand~~ expected
computing time for each task is substantially equal, wherein the total ~~computational demand~~
expected computing time for a task of the plurality of tasks is determined by adding the
~~computational demand~~ expected computing time for each branch that is allocated to the task; and
for each task, distributing the task to a computer server of the at least two
computer servers and executing the task on the computer server.

~~assigns said two or more computer servers to simultaneously compute demand~~
~~forecast information for at least two branches of the demand forecast tree, each computer server~~
~~computing demand forecast information for at least one said branch.~~

6. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 5 wherein each task
of the plurality of tasks includes one or more allocated branches for execution on a single
computer server of the at least two computer servers where the same computer server computes
the demand forecast information for an entire portion of each task.

7. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 6 wherein the
computer manager further determines the number of tasks as the product of the number of
computer servers available for computing demand forecast information and a user entered value
indicating an average number of tasks the one computer server of said at least two computer
servers will process.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) Computer implemented method for ~~computing demand forecast information for a~~ allocating to at least two computer servers a demand forecast application, ~~the demand forecast application capable of being graphically represented by a demand forecast tree having a single top level node with a plurality of branches directly emanating therefrom, each branch of the plurality of branches having at least one node with a time series of observations associated therewith;~~ the method comprising the steps of:

providing a database for storing time series of observations;

providing a plurality of at least two computer servers; each computer server independently computing demand forecast information for one or more branches of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree, wherein the number of provided computer servers is less than the number of branches;

determining a computational demand a number of bottom level nodes for each branch of the plurality of branches of the demand forecast tree;

for each branch, distributing the branch to a computer server of the at least two computer servers based on the number of bottom level nodes on the branch and executing the branch on the computer server to compute a demand forecast for the branch; and

summing the computed demand forecasts for each branch to determine a demand forecast for the single top level node.

for each computer server of said provided computer servers, allocating the computer server for processing one or more branches such that all of said branches have been allocated among said provided computer servers based on the computational demand for each branch, and such that a total computational demand associated with each computer server is substantially equal, wherein the total computational demand associated with each computer server is determined by adding the computational demand for each allocated branch;

computing with each provided computer server demand forecast information from observations stored in said data base.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 wherein the
executing of each branch is performed ~~said step of computing demand forecast information is~~
~~done simultaneously by said plurality of provided~~ the at least two computer servers.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 10 wherein the
number of bottom level nodes on each branch determines a computing time to compute the
demand forecast for the branch ~~said step of allocating the computer server comprises allocating~~
~~the computer server such that the expected time to compute the demand forecast information for~~
~~each computer server is substantially equal.~~

12-14. (Canceled)